

## Medication Information Sheet

**trabectedin** (tra-BEC-ted-in)

*This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.*

**Other Name:** Yondelis®

**Appearance:** Colourless to brownish-yellow solution mixed into larger bags of fluids

**What is this medication for?**

- For treating ovarian cancer (in combination with another drug) and some types of sarcoma

**What should I do before I have this medication?**

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have or had:
  - ◊ a history of low blood cells,
  - ◊ problems with your heart (including irregular heartbeat),
  - ◊ kidney or liver problems,
  - ◊ active infections, or any allergies.
- People with cancer have a higher risk of getting other cancers or developing blood clots. Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a long period of time. Discuss any concerns about this medication with your health care team.

**How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?**

- The use of this medication in men or women may cause harm to the unborn baby if pregnancy occurs. Let your health care team know if you or your partner is pregnant, becomes pregnant during treatment, or if you are breastfeeding.
- If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must: ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while taking this drug: Keep using birth control until 3 months after the last dose (for females), and for 5 months after the last dose (for males).
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while on trabectedin treatment and for 3 months after treatment ends.

- The medication may affect fertility (ability to get pregnant)

## How is this medication given?

- Trabectedin is given by injection through a large vein.
- You will be given a corticosteroid (dexamethasone, for example) 30 minutes before trabectedin to prevent nausea or vomiting

## What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- Do not eat or drink grapefruit, starfruit, Seville oranges or their juices (or products that contain these) while on this treatment. They may increase side effects.
- This medication can interact with other medications and can result in the treatment not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your health care team knows about all your medications (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- **For mild aches and pain or fever:**
  - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before taking any medications for pain or fever. They may hide a fever.
  - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your health care team about the right dose for you.
  - Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, ASA), including low dose aspirin for heart conditions, may increase your chance of bleeding. Talk to your health care team before you start or stop these medications.
  - **Talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away if you have a fever.** See the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.
- Drinking alcohol and smoking during your treatment may increase some side effects and make your medication less effective. Speak to your health care team about smoking and drinking alcohol while on treatment.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

You may not have all of the side effects below. You may have side effects that are not listed.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
<b>Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)</b>	
<p><b>Nausea and vomiting</b></p> <p>May occur in hours to days after your treatment. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it if it happens.</p> <p><b>To help prevent nausea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed to you by your doctor.</li> <li>• Drink clear liquids and have small meals. Get fresh air and rest.</li> <li>• Do not eat spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell.</li> <li>• Limit caffeine (e.g. coffee, tea) and alcohol.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have nausea or vomiting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed to you by your doctor.</li> <li>• Contact your health care team if the prescribed anti-nausea medications are not helping to control your nausea and vomiting.</li> </ul> <p>Also see <a href="#">Nausea &amp; Vomiting</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Contact your healthcare team if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting lasts more than 24 hours</p>
<p><b>Fatigue (tiredness)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be active and aim to get 30 minutes of moderate exercise (you are able to talk comfortably while exercising) on most days. Check with your health care team before starting any new exercise.</li> <li>• Pace yourself, do not rush. Put off less important activities. Rest when you need to.</li> <li>• Eat well and stay hydrated by drinking at least 6 to 8 glasses of water or other liquids every day (unless your doctor told you to drink more or less).</li> <li>• Avoid driving or using machinery if you are feeling tired</li> </ul> <p>See our <a href="#">Fatigue</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
<b>Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)</b>	
<p><b>Abnormal liver lab tests (may be severe)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have yellowish skin or eyes, unusually dark pee or pain on the right side of your belly. Talk to your health care team if this happens.</li> <li>• Your doctor may monitor your liver regularly with a blood test.</li> </ul>	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
<b>Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)</b>	
<p><b>Low platelets in the blood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for bleeding (such as unusual nosebleeds or bleeding from the gums) or bruising easily (this is rare).</li> <li>• Very rarely, severe symptoms can happen. If you notice black coloured stools (poo), red or pink coloured urine (pee), red or brown coloured mucus when you cough, severe headache/confusion or bleeding that will not stop, you need to talk to your health care team or go to the nearest emergency room right away.</li> </ul> <p>See the <a href="#">Low Platelet Count</a> pamphlet for more information.</p> <p><b>Fever, chills, infection</b></p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR</b></li> <li>• <b>38.0°C (or 100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.</b></li> </ul> <p>While you are getting treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills).</li> <li>• Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever.</li> <li>• Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature.</li> <li>• Wash your hands often.</li> <li>• Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries, medical procedures or visiting your dentist.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room.</b></p> <p>See our <a href="#">Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count)</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>
<p><b>Breakdown of muscle cells (may be severe)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have severe muscle pain or weakness and dark-coloured pee.</li> <li>• This can cause kidney problems.</li> </ul>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
<b>Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)</b>	
<p><b>Low appetite</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may not feel like eating or you may lose weight.</li> <li>Try to eat foods that you like and eat small meals throughout the day.</li> <li>You may need to take meal supplements to help keep your weight up.</li> <li>Talk to your health care team if you have a low appetite.</li> <li>See our <a href="#">Loss of appetite</a> pamphlet for more information.</li> </ul>	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><b>Constipation</b></p> <p><b>To help prevent constipation :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drink more liquids and eat well. Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day unless you have been told otherwise.</li> <li>Be Active. Exercise can help to keep you regular.</li> <li>Try to eat more fiber (e.g. fruits with skin, leafy greens and whole grains). If you take opioid pain medication, ask your health care team if eating more fibre is right for you.</li> </ul> <p><b>To help treat constipation :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have not had a bowel movement in 2 to 3 days you may need to take a laxative. Ask your health care team what to do.</li> </ul> <p>See the <a href="#">Constipation</a> Pamphlet for more information.</p>	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><b>Diarrhea</b></p> <p>May happen days to weeks after you get your treatment.</p> <p><b>If you have diarrhea :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take anti-diarrhea medication if your health care team prescribed it.</li> <li>Avoid foods or drinks with artificial sweetener (e.g. chewing gum, “diet” drinks), coffee and alcohol.</li> <li>Eat many small meals and snacks instead of 2 or 3 large meals.</li> <li>Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day. Talk to your health care team if you can’t drink 6-8 cups of liquids each day when you have diarrhea. You may need special liquids with salt and sugar, called Oral Rehydration Therapy.</li> </ul> <p>See the <a href="#">Diarrhea</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
<b>Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)</b>	
<b>Headache; mild joint, muscle pain or cramps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take your pain medication as prescribed by your doctor.</li> <li>• You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets as needed for mild aches and pains. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the right dose for you.</li> <li>• Talk to your doctor or pharmacist first before taking ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin. These medication may increase bleeding risk.</li> <li>• Rest often and try light exercise as it may help.</li> </ul>	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<b>Inflammation of blood vessels</b>  You may have pain, redness and swelling of a vein or have red or purple patches on your skin or a rash that does not turn white when pressed.	Contact your health care team as soon as possible (office hours)

**Other rare, but serious side effects are possible.**

**If you experience ANY of the following, speak to your cancer health care provider or get emergency medical help right away:**

- pain, swelling and hardening of the vein in your arm or leg
- trouble breathing, pain in your chest or coughing up blood
- irregular heartbeat, dizziness, fainting spells, or swelling in your legs, ankles and belly; weight gain
- rash, swollen lips, face or tongue, chest and throat tightness or trouble breathing; may happen during or shortly after your treatment
- lower back pain, peeing less than usual

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to [www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms](http://www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms).

*The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.*

*A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.*